

Alberta Returned Soldier Commission

REPORT — OF — ACTIVITIES

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



EDMONTON:
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1920

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Alberta Returned Soldier Commission

REPORT

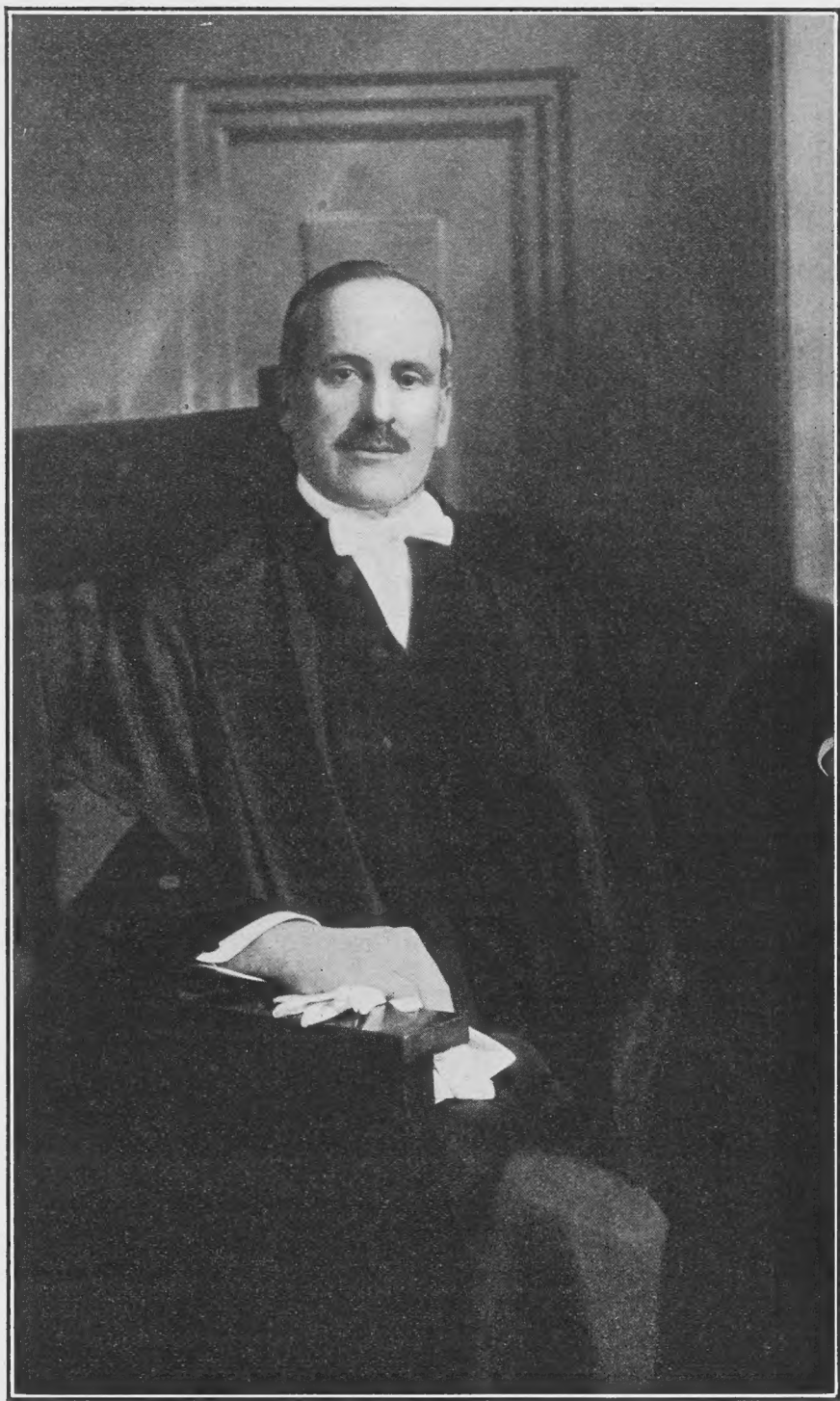
— OF —

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THE LATE HON. C. W. FISHER, SPEAKER
Chairman of Commission 1915-1918

March 12th, 1920.

THE HONOURABLE CHARLES STEWART,
Premier, and Chairman Alberta Ret'd Soldier Commission,
Government Buildings,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

The following is a short synopsis of the work of the Alberta Returned Soldier Commission.

The Alberta Returned Soldier Commission was created by order-in-council in November, 1915, at the request of the Federal Government, after a conference which had been held with the various Provincial Premiers, and others in Ottawa, to consider the problem of the returned soldier, the local committee was originally formed under the name of the Central Provincial Committee of the Military Hospitals Commission, and composed as follows:

Hon. C. W. Fisher, Chairman;
Mr. W. T. Henry, Mayor of Edmonton;
Dr. M. C. Costello, Mayor of Calgary;
Mr. J. Speakman, President of the U.F.A., representing
Agriculture;
Mr. J. Alexander Ross, representing Labour, and
Howard Stutchbury, Secretary.

Owing to the death of Mr. Speakman a few weeks after, his place on the Commission was filled by Mr. H. W. Wood, President of the U.F.A.

Some time later the Mayor of Lethbridge, Mr. W. D. L. Hardie, and the Mayor of Medicine Hat, Mr. A. C. Hawthorne, were added to the Committee.

In April of 1918 it was thought wise to make a change in the personnel of the committee so as to give the returned soldiers themselves an opportunity of assisting in the solution of the troubles of their returned comrades, and on April 29th, 1918, a new commission was formed under the present name, as follows:

The Hon. Charles Stewart, Premier, Chairman.

Three soldier members, who were appointed by the Provincial Command of the Great War Veterans' Association, namely:

Mr. John McK. Grady, Calgary.
Mr. F. H. Cleland, Calgary.
Mr. A. E. Nightingale, Edmonton.

The Civilian Members were:—

Mr. John A. McDougall, Edmonton.
Mr. A. J. N. Terrill, Medicine Hat.
Mr. S. J. Shepherd, K. C., Lethbridge.

At the request of the Pension Board, Mr. Grady resigned, and his place was filled by Capt. W. E. Trueman, of Red Deer.

In January of 1919, Capt. J. Montgomerie Bell, Unit Service Officer, was at the request of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment added to the Commission.

It might be well to state at the commencement that the sole duty which the provinces were requested to assume in connection with the re-establishment of returned soldiers, was that of finding employment, but it was found almost immediately after organization that inasmuch as there was no organization to which the soldier or his dependents could go with their troubles, other than the Department of Militia, the Patriotic Fund, and the Red Cross, and as these bodies functioned along more or less prescribed lines, the office of the committee quickly became a clearing house for all troubles, of whatever nature, of the soldier and his dependent.

The first meeting of the Commission was held in the office of the Mayor of Calgary, on Monday, November 15th, 1915, with all the then members present.

Arrangements were made at that meeting, to organize local reception committees, in every municipality in the province, in order that the Commission might have an agent whom they could advise as to the date of the return of the soldiers from that district.

In January of 1919, there were five hundred and eighteen of these Welcome Bureaux established, which have done splendid work, not only in the welcoming of the men, but in advising the head office of the commission, when any men in their district were in trouble.

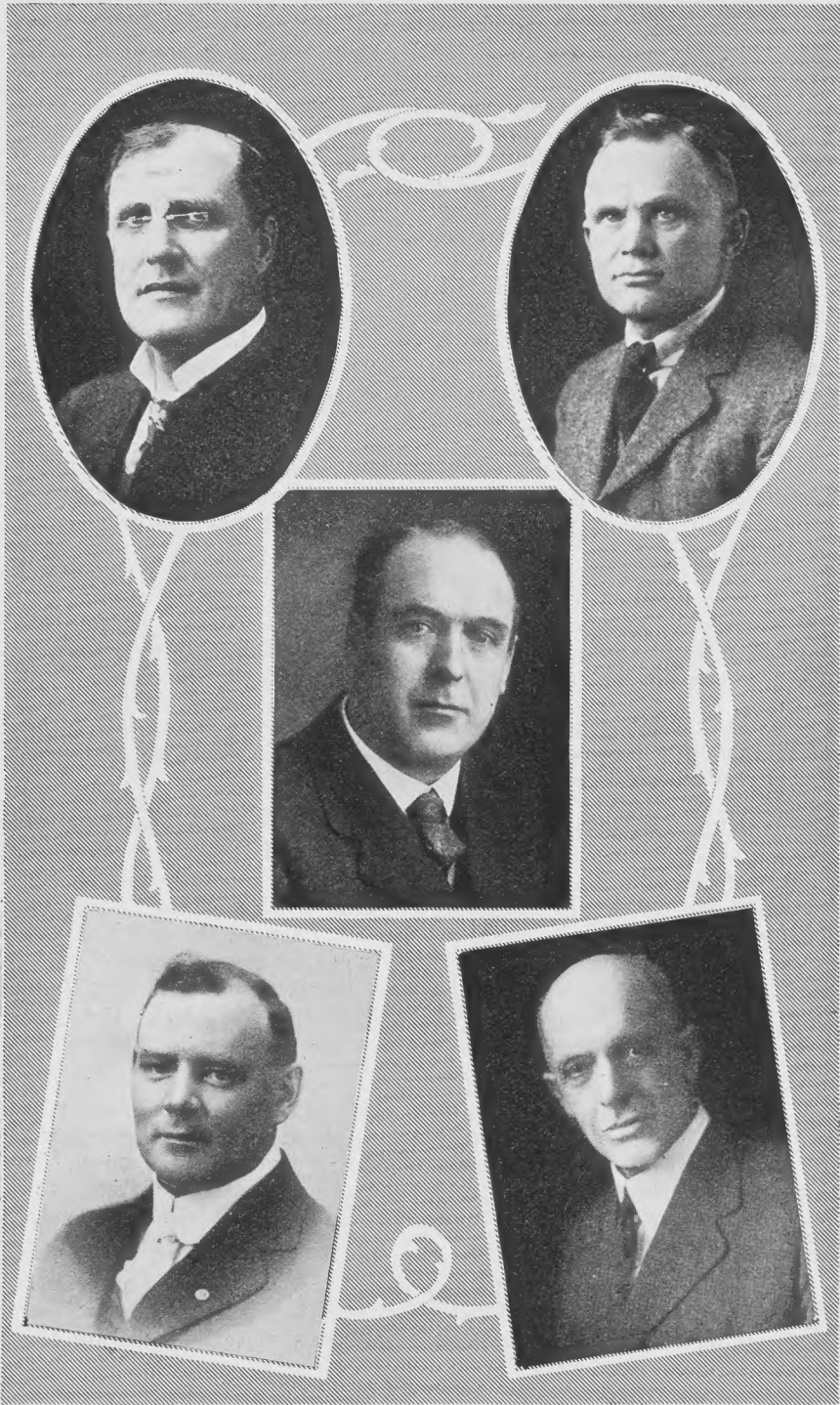
Arrangements were also completed with Militia Headquarters, to secure a list of the men returning with their addresses and names of their next-of-kin, so as to make it possible, not only to advise our own agents, but the next-of-kin, as well, of the return of the man.

At this meeting also the matter of preference in the employment of returned soldiers was taken up, a resolution passed, and sent to every public body or private concern who were employers of labour.

Arrangements were also made at this meeting to hold public meetings at various points of the Province, to discuss ways and means of dealing with the re-establishment of returned soldiers.

It is interesting to note that at the second meeting, there was a very full discussion as to the desirability of creating some machinery for the vocational re-education of men, unable to follow their old occupations, who had returned, or who might hereafter return, and the Secretary was instructed to endeavor to make all arrangements possible to that end.

At this meeting also, the first steps were taken towards formulating a scheme for soldier land settlement, and proposals were made to the Federal Government in this connection.



W. D. L. HARDIE,
Lethbridge.

ALEX. ROSS, M.L.A., Calgary.

W. T. HENRY,
Edmonton.

DR. M. C. COSTELLO,
Calgary.

H. W. WOOD,
Pres. U.F.A.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION 1915-1918

A conference of successful farmers and returned soldiers was called, and it can quite properly be said; that as a result of this conference, and the recommendations of the Committee, The Soldier Land Settlement Act was born. The late Speaker, Honourable Mr. Fisher, a very strong champion of land settlement, always expressed the idea that no better means could be provided for the re-establishment of the returned soldier, who was physically fit, and had any farming experience, than to place him on the land, and loan him the necessary money with which to operate.

At this meeting the matter of further treatment to men who had been prematurely discharged, was discussed, which later resulted in the passing of Privy Council Order No. 508, which permitted the cancellation of the ex-soldier's discharge, so that he might be taken back on the strength of the C.E.F. for medical and surgical treatment with full pay and allowances.

At the same meeting an arrangement was also made to extend the work of the commission by opening a branch office in Calgary, which would take care of practically all the cases originating south of Red Deer.

At the third meeting of the commission the need of a surgical specialist, attached to the Medical Branch of Military District No. 13, was brought up, and as a result of the commission's recommendation, a surgeon was appointed and attached to the district.

It is worthy to note the rapid growth of the organization, as at this meeting it was reported that eighty-seven Welcome Bureaux had already been established.

At this time also, the need for usefully occupying the time of the convalescent men in hospitals was felt and arrangements were made for the opening of a school in the Ogden Convalescent Home, Calgary, for the teaching of English and other academic subjects. This was not only for its curative effect in keeping the men's minds occupied, but it was found that there were quite a number of non-English-speaking ex-soldiers, who were desirous of furthering their knowledge of English, before going back to civil life. The first teacher of this school was appointed, and his salary guaranteed by the commission.

About this time, also, the first class in technical training was organized in Calgary. This was brought about owing to the demand for a number of trained moving picture operators. Through the kindness of one of the theatre managers, a practice machine was secured, and twelve men commenced training under the instruction of an expert operator.

It is worthy to note that every one of this class passed a successful examination for provincial license. It might also be stated that no fees for examination or certificates were charged by the Provincial Government.

The need of bringing to the attention of the employer, more forcibly, the claims of returned men for employment, was brought to the attention of the committee, at this time, and the secretary suggested that the moving picture houses be asked to display a special slide at each performance, which would call attention to

the fact that returning soldiers required employment, and urging the sympathetic consideration of employers. Through the kindness of the picture houses of the province this was done and resulted in a large amount of advertising, and what was more to the point, a great many men were placed in good positions. This method was finally adopted by the various other commissions in Canada, and the scheme of advertising became general.

At this time, also, through the kindness of the various newspapers of the province, the need of employment was brought to the attention of the public, by means of standing advertisements, these advertisements not only drew attention to the need of employment, but advised employers as to the name and address of our local agents in the town in which the advertisement was being carried.

In March of 1916, general vocational training for the disabled was undertaken by the Military Hospitals Commission, and provincial advisory boards were formed. The Provincial Department of Education turned over to the Commission, its new Institute of Technology in Calgary, for this purpose, and also agreed to second to the Commission, Dr. J. C. Millar, the then Provincial Director of Technical Education.

At this time, also, the committee's attention was drawn to the fact that a number of returning men, who were unfortunately suffering from shell-shock, were being placed in asylums for the insane, a number of these were sent to this province. It was felt by the committee, after consultation with a neurologist, that as many of them had a very fair hope of full recovery, it was unfair that they should be placed in asylums, and very strong recommendations were made to the Federal Government, that some institution for the treatment of border-line cases should be opened, and an institution was soon after opened at Cobourg, Ontario. The wisdom of this recommendation has been fully demonstrated during these later years.

In June of 1916, arrangements were made to have special civil service examinations for returned soldiers whenever there was a class of sufficient number to warrant it.

At the same time, through the kindness of Colonel Walker, of Calgary, five acres of land adjoining the Ogden Home, was made an experimental garden, and under the direction of Mr. Foley, the Provincial Superintendent of Poultry, an experimental Poultry Station was commenced, in which quite a large number of the men at Ogden took a very keen interest.

At this time the need of special accommodation for the treatment of Tuberculosis was urged on the Federal Government, and a short time after the Frank Sanatorium, at Frank, Alberta, was opened.

It might be interesting to note that in the endeavour to lighten the tedium of the men suffering from tuberculosis, a moving picture machine was placed in the Frank Sanatorium almost as soon as it was opened. This machine was paid for by the Ladies' Auxiliary of Lethbridge, who have always been most kind, and two programmes a week were supplied through the kindness of the film exchanges in Calgary. This was the first moving picture

machine to be placed in any hospital in Canada, and its adoption as a means of entertainment in these institutions has now become general.

At this time, also, an industrial survey of the province was made, to give the commission some idea as to the possibilities of employment, not only to the disabled, but of the fit men coming back. The result of this survey exceeded our expectations.

Quite early in the organization, the matter of increased pensions, a more prompt system of paying separation allowance and assigned pay, was urged, as it was found there were serious delays which were causing great hardship. The commission has, through its period of service, taken up thousands of cases of adjustments of pay and allowances, pensions, etc.

In January of 1917, the commission decided to open an Estates Branch, the duty of which would be to probate wills, or take out necessary letters of administration in the estates of all soldiers deceased during War Service.

This service was entirely without expense to the beneficiary, either as to legal fees, court costs, transmission of titles, fees or costs of any kind. To date over fifteen hundred estates have been dealt with; many of the beneficiaries were in the Old Country, and the Estates Branch has undertaken the whole administration, even to the placing of the properties in the hands of official trustees for disposal, so that the largest amount of money possible might be realized for the dependent. The direct financial saving to soldiers' dependents from this branch could easily be estimated at fifty thousand dollars.

The Alberta Commission was the first in Canada to commence this service, which has been very highly appreciated.

In addition to the handling of the estates, a service of somewhat similar nature was undertaken in the gathering up of the effects of deceased soldiers, who had enlisted in this province, but whose next-of-kin were in the Old Country.

It was brought to our attention that a great many of the men on enlistment had left their trunks and other effects in the keeping of some unknown person, unknown in this respect that the persons, in the majority of cases, who were holding the boxes, knew nothing of the soldier other than his name. Our endeavour in this respect was to obtain traces of the effects and forward them to the next-of-kin, through the military authorities.

A letter was sent to every Postmaster in Alberta and advertisements were inserted in the newspapers, asking that any persons who had in their possession, effects of a soldier, which had not been claimed, should send them to us. In the supplement to this report, copies of the forms used, and some very interesting examples, have been cited.

The most important feature of the Commission's work has been that of troop notification, and especially the work of our train conducting officers.



HON. CHAS. STEWART, PREMIER
Chairman of Commission
1918-1920

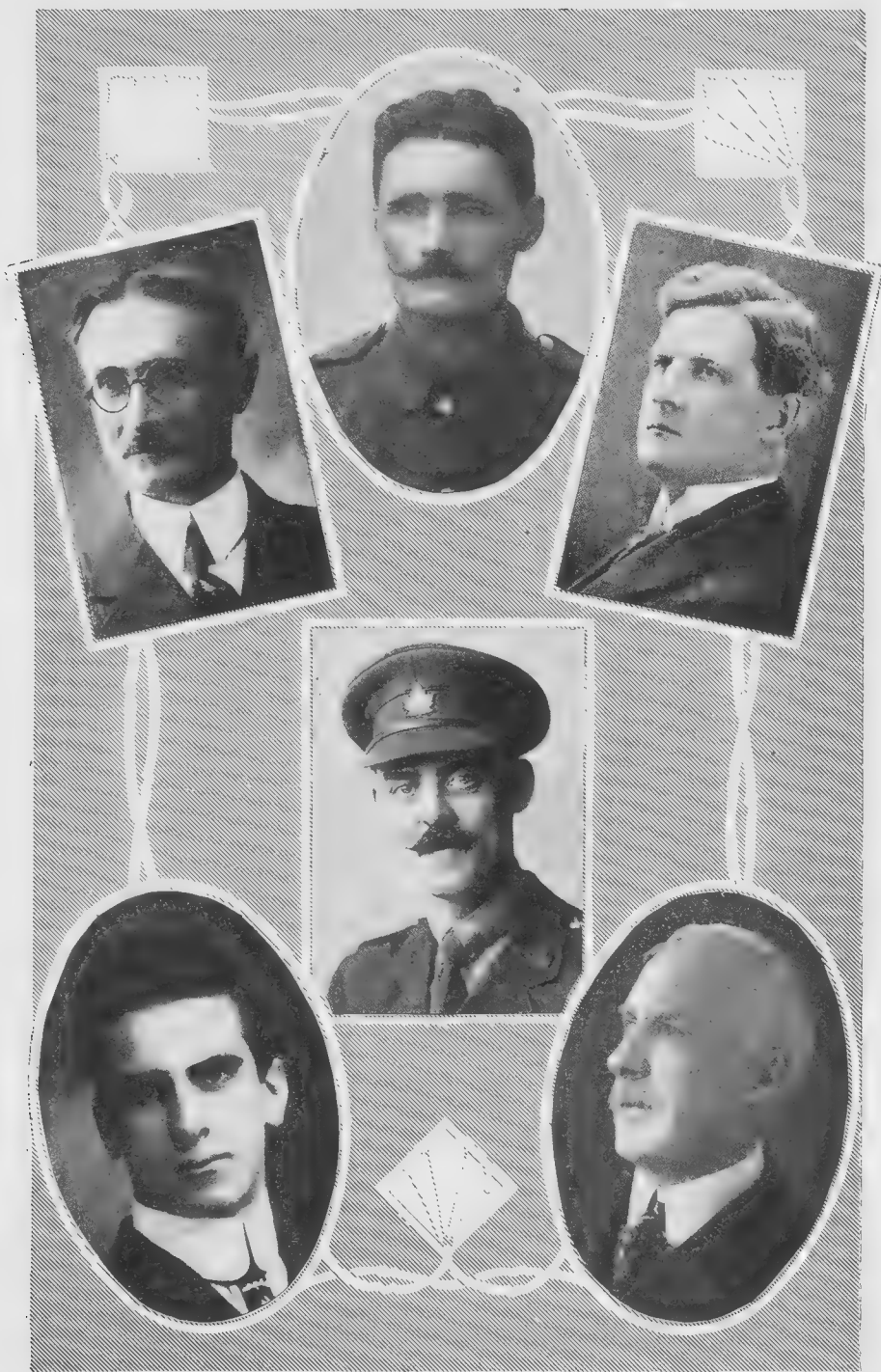
In July of 1918, it was felt that with the large number of men returning, and the difficulty of getting prompt information from Militia Headquarters as to their movements, many men arrived in the Province of whom we had no record, and whose next-of-kin were not advised as to when they would return. The conducting officer went to Fort William or Winnipeg, and met each troop train, and got in personal touch with the Alberta soldiers on that train, adjusted on the spot, where possible, any little difficulty he may have been in, delivered to him messages from home in many cases, and in all cases sent telegrams signed by the soldier, but paid for by the commission, to the next-of-kin, advising definitely the hour of their arrival at their home point. It is difficult to say just how much this service has been appreciated, both by the soldier and dependent. Our two conducting officers travelled a total of eighty-eight thousand, eight hundred and sixty-five miles in the course of their duty.

In addition to notification from the conducting officer, the most complete system was inaugurated through our Calgary office. It must be understood that a telegram was sent from the seaboard, by the authorities, of the arrival of a vessel carrying troops, these wires were sent direct to the office of the commission, where they were mimeographed, and copies sent to the Next-of-Kin Association, Great War Veteran Association, and various other patriotic organizations, as well as to the mayor of the town to which the men were returning. The various forms used are shown as a supplement to this report. The conducting officers also kept themselves well informed as to local conditions so that they were in a position to answer the numerous questions which were asked by the men.

When the Soldier Settlement Board commenced its operations in this province it found great difficulty in getting information as to available land, and requested the Commission's assistance in the matter. The commission obtained for it a listing of all lands available for soldier settlement. Letters and forms were sent out to every municipality and to various other organizations which gave us their most hearty co-operation. Copies of the forms used are attached hereto as a supplement to this report.

Quite early in the work, the problem of the under-aged boy came to the notice of the commission. Quite a large number of boys, who enlisted being under age, and while it is true that they signed a false declaration of age, in order to get into the army, it was also true they were accepted, and many of them served in the firing line, and this service was performed during the formative period of their lives. They came back no longer boys, but men, realizing the handicap under which they had placed themselves, by giving up their opportunity for education. Very strong recommendations were made to the Vocational Branch of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, that these boys should again be given the opportunity of study, and arrangements were finally completed to this end as a result of the commission's recommendations.

Many other regulations having to do with the betterment of the returned soldier and his dependent have been fathered by the commission, so many in fact, it would be wearisome to enumerate them all.



F. H. CLELAND, Calgary, (Soldier Member).
 A. J. N. TERRILL, Medicine Hat. S. J. SHEPHERD, Lethbridge.
 W. E. TRUMAN, Red Deer, (Soldier Member).
 A. E. NIGHTINGALE, Edmonton, (Soldier Member). J. A. McDougall, Edmonton.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION 1918-1920

Regulations as to separation allowance, matters affecting discharge, special treatment, pensions, clothing allowance, transportation, and a hundred and one details of lesser moment.

In addition the Legislature of Alberta, have at the request of the commission, passed most advanced legislation for the benefit of soldiers, including an Act for the Relief of Volunteers and Reservists, which protected the property of the soldier and his dependent from seizure during the time of service of the soldier, and for a stated time thereafter.

The Soldiers' Home Exemption Act, which exempted the home property of the soldier from taxation of all kind, from the date of his enlistment until one year from the date of his discharge. An Act to provide for the estate of infants, and the appointment of an official guardian for the estate. This provision was specially made so as to protect the orphan children of deceased soldiers, and this work was undertaken by the Attorney General's Department, without cost to the estate.

A Statute Law Amendment validating the wills of all soldiers, and which made it possible to probate the wills of deceased soldiers, which were not drawn in the prescribed form and permitted the estate to be distributed according to the last wish of the soldier.

In addition to these Acts, various orders-in-council have been promulgated for the betterment of soldier conditions. Money grants have been given through the commission for the maintenance of homes for the children of deceased soldiers, and for the care of the sick children of soldiers, also providing educational facilities, during the summer months, for returned men who by reason of their service were backward in their studies, and who did not come within the regulations governing training.

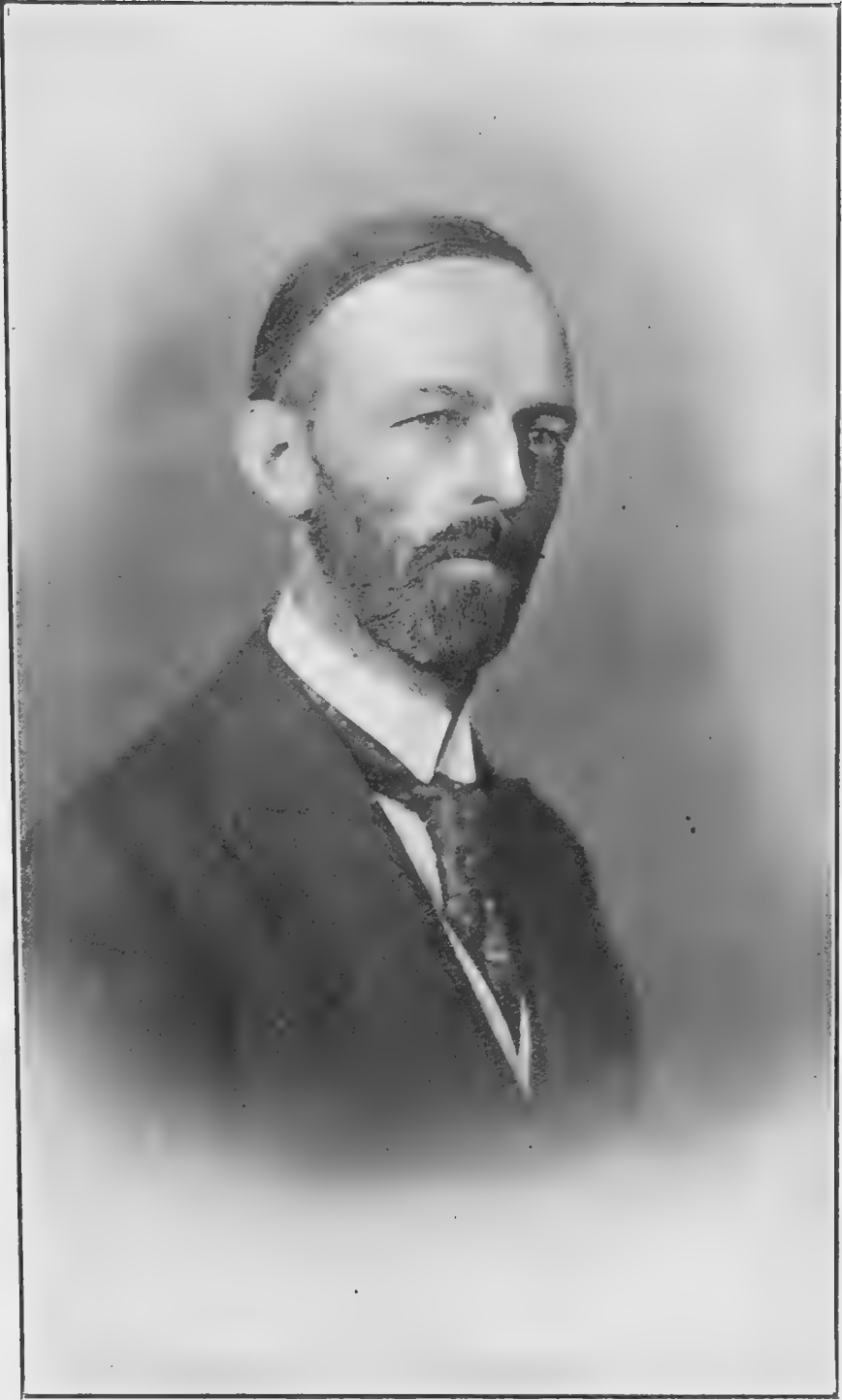
During the year 1919, seventy-five thousand dollars was paid through the commission to the Provincial Command of the Great War Veterans' Association for the relief of distress. This money was distributed through the various locals of the Great War Veterans' Association, and the sum of fifty thousand dollars has already been set aside for similar work for 1920.

As stated at the outset of this report it is quite impossible to give full details of the work and activities of the commission as the great bulk of the work was not such as could be set down in writing.

Over thirty-five thousand cases have been handled, and these run the whole gamut from a missing cheque to the patching up of family differences.

That the work has been appreciated can be readily seen from the hundreds of letters of thankful appreciation on the files.

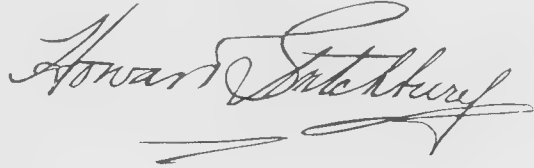
The commission has always had the most friendly relations with the Great War Veterans' Association, the Next-of-Kin Association, War Widows' Association, the Red Cross, the Patriotic Fund, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, the Pension Board, the Soldiers' Settlement Board, as well as with the various Military Organizations to which it was necessary to appeal.



HOWARD STUTCHBURY,
Secretary.

Thousands of cases have been handled and a solution found, which come under no regulation, and it is these cases which are of the most human interest and which gave us the keenest satisfaction in solving, but it is unnecessary to state the methods which were adopted in dealing with them. It is sufficient to say that the rule of the office has been "Don't pass the buck," and that the trouble of the soldier or his dependent no matter what its nature, was the trouble of the Commission, and our clients were always made to feel that if it was impossible for the Commission to secure an adjustment, it was impossible of adjustment.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Stetson". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent, sweeping flourish at the end of the last name.

Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT

REPORT S. T. VICKERMAN, CONDUCTING OFFICER

Period March 1st, 1919, to August 28th, 1919.

Total miles travelled, 20,459.

INDIVIDUALS MET

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Officers ----- | 111 |
| Men ----- | 4186 |
| Women ----- | 210 |
| Children ----- | 134 |
| Total ----- | 4641 |

REPORT W. J. DYSON, CONDUCTING OFFICER

Period July 1918, to September 1919.

Total miles travelled, 68,406.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Total dependents met ----- | 1847 |
| Total other ranks met ----- | 13163 |
| Total ----- | 15010 |

COPY OF POST CARD SENT TO NEXT-OF-KIN

(1)

ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIER COMMISSION

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—

I am advised by the O. C. Clearing Depot-----
that ----- from S.S.-----
left there for this district on-----

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

FORM OF WIRE SENT BY CONDUCTING OFFICER

(2)

Red Cross Headquarters,

Calgary, Alberta.

Train 212, Melita Party left Regina 8.30 p.m. Thursday, should arrive Calgary about 3 p.m. Friday stop 18 men 20 women 22 children for Calgary stop 16 men 13 women 9 children Edmonton of these several will require accommodation in Calgary stop this is second train off Melita.

VICKERMAN.

(3)

Bureau of Information,
C.P.R. Depot,
Calgary, Alberta.

29-5-19

Train 758 Aquitania party due Calgary 20 minutes after
Bohemian party stop 59 O.R. dispersal Calgary.

VICKERMAN.

(4)

Secretary,
G. W. V. A. Calgary, Alta.

Trains 1210 and 1211 arrive Calgary Friday with 19 men
24 women 23 children for Calgary 26 men 23 women 20 child-
ren for Edmonton all of Melita stop 1210 should arrive about
noon 1211 about 3 p.m.

VICKERMAN.

(5)

NOTIFICATION OF LETTER ENCLOSED WITH
NOMINAL ROLLS.

Calgary, Alberta,
November 3rd, 1919.

DEAR SIR:—Re S. S. Royal George—

I beg to enclose herewith nominal roll of men due to arrive
in Calgary on or about -----
Due notification, as to the exact time of arrival will be sent to you
by the Alberta Returned Soldier Commission representative on
board the train. Notification to Next-of-Kin will have been
forwarded from the train en route.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

(6)

ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIER COMMISSION
INFORMATION TROOP ARRIVALS

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Steam Ship ----- | Date----- | |
| Port of Landing ----- | | |
| Date of Landing ----- | Arrive Calgary----- | |
| Dispersal | Officers | Men |
| Medicine Hat | ----- | ----- |
| Calgary | ----- | ----- |
| Edmonton | ----- | ----- |
| Total----- | | |
| Train Number ----- | | |
| A.R.S.C. Representative meeting party----- | | |
| Record of Train En Route | | |
| Place----- | Date----- | Time----- |

(14)

THE ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIER COMMISSION

M.5329 Specimen Telegram from point of Disembarkation

The following men have arrived at Halifax Nov. 2nd per S.S. Royal George. Due Calgary on or about November 6th, 1919.

CALGARY, ALBERTA.

Pte. T. Statton, notify Percy Russell, 2312, 7th Avenue.
Cpl. W. Turner, notify Mrs. W. Turner, 1721, 8th St. E.
Cpl. W. Bond, notify Mrs. Bond, 611, 1st Ave., Sunnyside.
Sgt. Sml. McKune, notify Broomfield & Seller.
Pte. Jos. Dunn, notify Mrs. Dunn, 1128, 9th St. E.
Cpl. H. Stairs, notify Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Lanoix, 427, 17th Ave. E.

EDMONTON

Pte. E. Pettit, notify Mrs. R. N. Pettit, 10636, 11th Street.
Pte. M. M. R. Howard, notify Miss S. Stannard, 9506, 77th Ave.

OTHER POINTS

Pte W. E. Hepworth, notify Mrs. G. Jackson, Benton, Alberta.
Cpl. E. A. Jackson, notify Mrs. E. A. Jackson, 309, 133rd St. W. Lethbridge.
Pte. J. Bouchier, notify Mrs. L. Bouchier, Buckingham, Que.
S.-Sgt. K. A. Maughan, notify Mrs. Maughan, near Vermilion.
S.-Sgt. W. H. Ashbury, notify Mrs. Gibbons, Lummon, Alberta.
Pte. M. Hawkins, notify E. Townsend, 980, 5th St., Medicine Hat.
Pte. B. B. Hunt, notify L. Lovette, G.P.O., Winnipeg, Man.
Pte. W. F. Lennore, notify O. Penecleat, Ernfold, Sask.
Cpl. D. W. Light, notify Mrs. W. E. Light, 33 Cowgate St. Norfolk.
Pte. J. W. Meers, notify E. W. Meers, Wimburne via Olds, Alta.
Pte. J. D. Love, notify Mrs. S. A. Love, Raymond.

THE FOLLOWING GIVE NO NOTIFICATION ADDRESS

Spr. F. Stearns
C.Q.M.S. J. Key
Pte. J. W. T. Call
L.-Cpl. F. H. Ledgard
Cpl. B. W. Milnes
Pte. T. T. Peterson
Pte. J. J. Lewis
Gr. H. B. Rayner
Sgt. M. Davies
Cpl. G. Gunn
Cpl. H. Leggie
Cpl. H. McNaughton
Pte. J. Longmoor
Pte. Geo. Smith
Sgt. J. O. Miller
Pte. G. Hartley
Pte. P. Miller
Cpl. F. Morpherson

(8)

ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIERS' COMMISSION

CONDUCTING OFFICER'S REPORT

Steamship -----Melita----- Train 1243.
Left Calgary-----2.50 p.m.----- Time July 21st.
Met party at-----Brandon----- Time July 22nd, 8.20 p.m.
Party composed of:—
Train Conducting Officer (Name) Lieut. Cairns.-----
Medical Officer (Name) Lieut. Cairns-----
Y.M.C.A. Representative (Name) J. W. Laramor.
Officers N. S. Wardsworth and Sister Dixon, One Officer
Cadet-----X-----
Other Ranks-----37-----
Dependents? Women-----33----- Children-----27-----
Total Party-----97-----
Proceeded with Party to-----Regina-----Time July 23rd 3.30 p.m.
Miles Travelled-----960-----
Total Time-----2½ days.-----

Conditions

Steamship-----Conditions good—no complaint.-----

Train----- Service excellent. -----

Signature -----
A. R. S. C. Representative.

Date-----

P.S.—Picked up second section of Melita Party at Regina at 10.20 a.m. July 23rd. Proceeded to Moose Jaw with same, on which there were but six for the Province. Saw they were properly informed and laid over for Cedric party. This train service was also good.

(9)

COPY OF REPORT OF CONDUCTING OFFICER

Calgary, Alberta,
November 1st, 1919.

H. STUTCHBURY, Esq.,
Secretary, A. R. S. C.,
Edmonton, Alberta.

DEAR SIR,—

In accordance with your request that the Calgary Office, A. R. S. C. furnish you with a report of the different work carried out by the Calgary Office, I have the honour through the good graces of the Assistant Secretary A.R.S.C. Calgary, to forward herewith report of my duties whilst employed with the A. R. S. C. in the capacity of Conducting Officer, together with table showing number of miles travelled and the number of Officers, Other Ranks, Women and Children met and interviewed.

I commenced my duties on March 1st, 1919, which consisted as follows:— The Calgary Office was notified from the sea-board of the arrival of all boats carrying soldiers and their dependents, the notification taking the form of a list of all men returning to Alberta for dispersal or treatment, together with the names of the next-of-kin, or whomsoever they wished notified of their return. On receipt of these lists I allowed a period of three and a half days for the arrival of the train in Winnipeg and in the meantime made arrangements to leave Calgary so that I arrived in Winnipeg in time to meet the train if it so happened that there was a large number on board and if only a small party I met them at one of the Divisional Points between Calgary and Winnipeg.

My first duty on boarding the train providing same was carrying only troops, and no women and children, was to get in touch with the T. C. O. who carried a nominal roll of all on board; then I checked my toll with his. After having done this I notified by wire the A. R. S. C. Edmonton and Calgary, and Calgary and Edmonton Information Bureaux to the following effect: Train number, name of boat, number of men for their particular district, probable time of arrival and also whether there was an increase or decrease on the original list. In both cases giving the names of the men, the reason for this latter procedure being that all the abovementioned officers were in possession of an exact copy of all the list that I checked with the T.C.O.'s nominal roll; I then notified by wire the Mayors and G.W.V.A. offices in all the districts to which troops on the train would be going at the same time giving them an approximate time as to their arrival as to facilitate the matter of answering inquiries of friends or next-of-kin regarding the arrival of these trains. These inquiries arising through the fact that all lists were published in the Calgary and Edmonton papers and their next-of-kin being notified by the Post Card through the Calgary and Edmonton offices of the A. R. S. C. after having satisfied myself as to the number of names of all on board I interviewed the Medical Officer of the train as to the matter of sickness and sanitation; in most cases the medical officer of the train made a trip with me through the train to see if there were any suggestions I could make

as to the comfort of the men; after he being satisfied as to the condition of the train I then interviewed each man with a view to giving them any information I used in compiling my report on returning to Calgary.

During my trip west on the train I notified at intervals the Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Calgary and Edmonton Offices the movements of the train and the probable time of arrival at the four above mentioned, thereby facilitating the work of these offices in answering questions, as I understood these wires were of the greatest value to all concerned.

The Y. M. C. A. Officials were generally very earnest men and achieved good results, exceptions were to be found, but where indifferences were noted on the part of the officials the matter was reported to the Central Command of the Y.M.C.A. where immediate action was taken.

During the latter part of my service I met a great many dependents as the reports will show. These trains were always in charge of a Red Cross Nursing Staff, deserving the highest praise for the care and efficiency in which it handled the women and children.

Special attention was given to matters of advice on re-establishment, the point in mind being that any good advice that could be given a man previous to his landing in Alberta would assist him very much in his efforts to re-enter civilian life. Whilst en route I made it a point to speak to each car separately as a body, pointing out to them many facts regarding re-establishment, such as:—

Work, where to apply.

Pay troubles.

Regulations.

Discharge.

Housing conditions in Alberta.

Economic conditions, with strong recommendations that a man immediately obtain work and that War Service Gratuity payment be saved for labor conditions anticipated during the winter months.

I endeavored to discuss with the men personally the matters pertaining to land settlement, pension, vocational and medical services, informing them that the Office of the Commission was entirely at their disposal and that any difficulty they might have they would endeavor to adjust it for them.

From April of this year I have worked in co-operation with Mr. S. T. Vickerman and I do not hesitate in saying as a result of our combined work many a soldier has been assisted and set on the right road to re-establishment.

Sincerely,

Conducting Officer.

(10)

THE POSTMASTER:

SIR,—

At the request of the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board, Calgary Office, this Commission has undertaken to collect and compile listings of land available for Soldiers' Land Settlement.

We request your co-operation in this matter of re-construction and re-establishment of the Soldier. The enclosed forms will be of service to those desiring to list their land. Upon completion of all particulars contained therein the form should be forwarded to this Office when same will be compiled for records of the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board.

A further supply of forms may be had upon application to A. R. S. C. Qu'Appelle Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

(11)

Calgary, Alberta,
July 4th, 1919.

DEAR SIR,—

Working in co-operation with the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board of Southern Alberta, we are endeavoring to interest the Municipal Districts and Rural Organizations in the Soldiers' Land Settlement scheme.

Through the assistance of the Department of Municipal Affairs your name has been submitted as a representative citizen of the community in which you reside.

Our request to you in this enterprise is that through the Local Council of your district, a list of available lands (by purchase or homestead) be compiled; lands in your opinion and judgment to be good farm lands and suitable for Soldiers' Settlement. The purchase price and location are requested, attached forms will be of assistance.

These returns will be compiled by this Commission and put in order so that the soldier on making enquiries will be given every assistance and have immediate information. The returns will be used in a confidential manner and will be passed to one other organization only, viz., Soldiers' Land Board.

The scheme will be both a benefit to the soldier and to your community in that it will encourage and assist you in obtaining the very best class of citizen in your district.

We would appreciate if you would give the above address to all parties interested.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

Mr. D. M. Graham,
Acadia Valley, Alberta.

(12)

Calgary, Alberta,

DEAR SIR,—

Working in co-operation with the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board of Southern Alberta, we are endeavoring to interest the Municipal Districts and Rural Organizations in the Soldiers' Land Settlement scheme.

Through the assistance of the Provincial Secretary of the U.F.A. Committee in your District a list of available land (by purchase or homestead) be compiled, lands in your opinion and judgment to be good farm lands and suitable for Soldiers' Settlement, the purchase price and locations are requested, attached form will be of assistance.

These returns will be compiled by the Commission and put in order so that the Soldier on making inquiries will be given every assistance and have immediate information. The returns will be used in a confidential manner and will be passed to one other organization only, viz., Soldiers' Land Board.

The scheme will be both a benefit to the soldier and to your community in that it will encourage and assist you in obtaining the very best class of citizen in your District.

We would appreciate if you would give the above address to all parties interested.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

(13)

THE ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIER COMMISSION.
214 Beveridge Building, Calgary, Alberta.

| SECTION | TSP. | RANGE | MER. | OWNER | PURCHASE PRICE | REMARKS |
|-------------|------|-------|------|---------------|----------------|---|
| S.W. 1/4 18 | 17 | 21 | 4th | Ole Belland | \$4,500.00 | Fenced, well, 65 acres broken. |
| N.W. 24 | 18 | 23 | 4th | Hos. Bountney | \$7,000.00 | Buildings, well, implements, 100 acres broken. |
| N.E. 24 | 18 | 23 | 4th | Glen Duncan | \$6,400.00 | All broken, well, hog house 16x32, Barn 32x48, Chicken house, coal shed, all broken. Will put 80 acres ready for crop 1920, will also furnish pasture in adjoining section. |

(Signed) R. P. Pool,
Champion, Alberta.

(13)

PARTICULARS OF PROPERTY

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|------|------|
| L.S. | N.E. | N.E. | Tp. | Rge. | Mer. |
| 40 | 22 | 23 | 36 | 4 | 4 |

W-----N.

S.

Improved or Unimproved__115 Improved__My cash price__\$8,000.00
Are you Registered Owner_____Yes_____If not state nature of
equity _____
Acres according to Title_____320_____Acres Cult._____115_____
Additional acres suitable for cultivation_____205_____
Acres of land level_____rolling_____Yes_____Hilly_____
Acres of land stony _____sand_____Alkali_____
Acres of land fenced_____160 acres fenced_____Material__2 point wire__
Acres of Land _____Hay 20_____Brush_____Pasture__120__
Character of Soil—Surface, black loam.
Sub-soil, clay.

PARTICULARS OF BUILDINGS

| Buildings | Size | Material | Roof | Foundation | Age | Value |
|-----------|-------|-----------|----------|------------|-----|----------|
| House | 14x20 | Lumber | Shingles | Cement | 8 | \$600.00 |
| Granary | 14x32 | Lumber | Board | | 6 | 400.00 |
| Hog House | 16x32 | Lumber | Sod | | 5 | 200.00 |
| Hen House | 14x16 | Log Sides | Sod | | 5 | 100.00 |
| Stable | 16x20 | Sod | | | | |

REMARKS: Object of selling is ill health and if taken by the
first of January, 1920, will sell for the above.

Date____October 6th, 1919.

Signed Owner

A. E. YOUNG,

Sounding Lake, Alberta.

(14)

THE POSTMASTER,

RE DECEASED SOLDIERS' EFFECTS

DEAR SIR,—

I have the honour to request that this letter be posted in a con-
spicuous place so that the Public may become aware of the procedure
to take in the matter of Deceased Soldiers' Effects.

The Alberta Returned Soldiers' Commission has undertaken to
gather and forward to the next-of-kin, through the Military Authori-
ties, all effects, trunks, boxes, etc., of the soldiers who enlisted in

Alberta and were later killed whilst on service. It is these boxes, such as mentioned above that we are now endeavoring to obtain trace of.

The Public is requested to assist the Commission in this matter and all persons who have knowledge of such effects are requested to immediately communicate with 214 Beveridge Bldg., Calgary, Alta.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

(15)

A COPY OF THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL STORAGE COMPANIES IN ALBERTA.

The Manager,
Cadillac Cartage & Storage Co.,
Calgary, Alberta.

DEAR SIR,—

This Commission is putting forth every effort to locate the baggage of deceased soldiers so that their effects may be sent to their next-of-kin.

Might we ask if you have any baggage stored with you that belongs to any soldier who was killed overseas? if so would you kindly communicate with this office, giving us their names and any other information that you may have?

Yours faithfully,

Chief Clerk.

(16)

LETTER SENT TO NEWSPAPERS

DEAR SIR,—

Enclosed you will find a brief article on one phase of the work carried on by this Commission. I beg to request that the article be published through the medium of your paper, enabling us to get trace of deceased soldiers' effects throughout the Province. Should you require further information at any time regarding the work in progress in this matter kindly communicate with us and full particulars will be supplied.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Secretary.

One of the most interesting features of the work of the Alberta Returned Soldier Commission has been the disposal of deceased soldiers' effects.

The Alberta Battalions had in their ranks a majority of men from the British Isles. A great number of these men were unmarried, without next-of-kin in Canada. During the early stages of the war these men were the first to enlist; not having relatives in Canada, they packed their civilian possessions in trunks and boxes, leaving them with friends or acquaintances until their return, but many of them will never return having given their lives for the Mother Country. These trunks and boxes in the vast majority of cases are still in Alberta and owing to the deceased soldier not having left the address of his next-of-kin with the persons keeping the effects.

The records of the A. R. S. C. show some interesting cases:

The case of Pte. S. is one in point; a trunk was left with a family in Calgary, it later being handed to the A.R.S.C. for disposal. No record of the regimental number of the deceased was to be found, but on examining the trunk and its contents a number of photographs were discovered, by a mere coincidence one was of a young woman with her name on the back of the snapshot. The picture was taken on the platform of a railway station in Scotland. In the background of the photograph was a lamp post bearing the name of the station. A letter was immediately sent to the young lady, addressed to the town shown in the snapshot. A reply was received giving full particulars of Pte. S., enabling the office to despatch the trunk through the Military Authorities to the next-of-kin in Scotland.

Another case of interest was that of Pte. D.

No record of a regimental number was to be found but the trunk contained a number of letters from Blackpool, England. Three different letters were selected, each being signed by a young lady's Christian name only, but fortunately the letters were headed by an address. Letters were sent to them bearing the Christian name of a young lady. In all three cases replies were received giving particulars of Pte. D. sufficient to send the trunk to his mother overseas.

A similar case to that of Pte. D. was that of Pte. L.

Upon writing to an address in England giving the Christian name only a reply was received from the deceased soldier's sister.

Another case was that of Cpl. S., a book giving the clue. The book was apparently presented by a friend and the fly leaf contained the giver's name and address; through this address the effects were sent to his home in the Old Country.

The Estates Branch of the A. R. S. C. has since its inception probated approximately 1500 wills for the Estates of deceased soldiers. Persons having or knowing of effects and papers of deceased soldiers are requested to communicate with the A. R. S. C., Qu'Appelle Building, Edmonton, Alberta, or 214 Beveridge Building, Calgary, Alberta.

(17)

ALBERTA RETURNED SOLDIER COMMISSION

214 Beveridge Bldg.,
Calgary, Alberta.

Reg. No. _____ Rank _____ Name _____

Effects of:—

Name _____ Address _____

Are at _____

That Effects consist of _____ Trunks _____ Valises _____ Miscellaneous _____

When Left _____ Date _____

Name and Address of next-of-kin, if known _____

(Signature) _____

